

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



**North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service**

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)
and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

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For Month Ending: January 5, 2003
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General: Below normal snowfall during the month of December left many fields bare and susceptible to wind erosion, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The mild winter conditions however, have been easy on both livestock and livestock feed supplies.

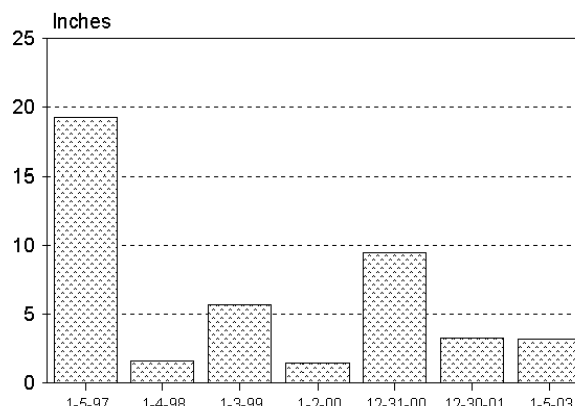
On average statewide, there were 3.2 inches of snow cover on January 5, compared to 3.3 inches last year. The north central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 5.6 inches followed by 4.0 inches in both the northwest and west central districts. The southwest and south central districts reported the least snow cover with 0.7 and 0.8 of an inch respectively.

County and secondary roads were rated 93 percent open, 6 percent difficult and 1 percent closed to travel. Road conditions were 75 percent dry, 18 percent icy, 6 percent drifted, and 1 percent muddy.

Crops: The lack of snow cover had alfalfa producers concerned about winter kill. As of January 5, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 48 percent poor, 47 adequate, and 5 excellent. More snow is needed in many areas to protect winter wheat seedings also.

Livestock: Ranchers indicated that their livestock were generally in good condition. Statewide, cattle conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 25 fair, 63 good, and 9 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 3 poor, 25 fair, 58 good, and 12 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 21 short, 71 adequate and 4 surplus.

**Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota**



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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WEATHER: Precipitation for December 2002 was generally below normal. Parts of central and western North Dakota received significant amounts of snowfall while the eastern part of the state saw very little snowfall. Through the end of December, most of the state was in drought conditions ranging anywhere from abnormally dry to extreme. Moisture conditions in the Red River Valley remained normal. Temperatures, on the other hand, were generally above normal statewide. The state average temperatures were approximately 6.9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. The below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures were due to the phenomenon known as El Nino. During El Nino winters, the Northern Plains states have generally warmer winters.

OUTLOOK, January: El Nino will once again play a role in North Dakota's weather for the month of January. Expect to see above normal temperatures extend across the state. Eastern North Dakota will see a greater chance of above normal temperatures than the central and western part of the state. Although precipitation levels will remain at or near normal, drought conditions will still exist for portions of western North Dakota.

TEMPERATURE, December 1-31, 2002

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm
(Degrees F)				
NORTHWEST	50	-14	18	5
Columbus	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	52	-11	20	6
Mohall	50	-16	17	4
Minot	49	-16	16	4
NORTH CENTRAL	49	-19	15	6
Baker	46	-17	15	5
Bottineau	49	-24	13	5
Towner	53	-16	19	9
NORTHEAST	48	-10	19	8
Cando	49	-13	18	4
Cavalier	49	-12	19	8
Forest River	49	-12	19	9
Grand Forks	47	-8	19	9
Langdon	43	-11	16	7
St. Thomas	49	-8	20	10
WEST CENTRAL	51	-13	19	5
Hazen	51	-12	20	6
Turtle Lake	50	-16	17	4
Watford City	52	-11	21	4
CENTRAL	50	-13	18	6
Carrington	49	-17	16	5
Harvey	50	-16	17	5
Jamestown	52	-8	22	9
Robinson	49	-14	17	6
Streeter	50	-11	19	6
EAST CENTRAL	49	-14	18	6
Dazey	51	-17	17	6
Fargo	48	-12	18	6
Hillsboro	47	-13	17	5
SOUTHWEST	57	-5	26	9
Beach	56	-9	24	8
Bowman	57	-1	28	10
Dickinson	57	-5	26	9
Hettinger	59	-6	26	8
SOUTH CENTRAL	52	-7	22	8
Bismarck	53	-6	23	9
Linton	51	-7	22	7
SOUTHEAST	53	-9	22	9
Edgeley	54	-6	24	11
McLeod	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oakes	53	-10	22	8
Wyndmere	52	-10	21	8

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.